

By the Lord Deputie and Councell.

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A Proclamation prohibiting the sale of Cattell out of Faires or Markets.

HENRY FALKLAND.



Hereas Wee are informed of a very great abuse generally practised in all parts of this kingdome, by diuerse persons who vnder colour of driuing cattell towards common fayres and Markets, as if they meant to sell the same in the open Fayres and Markets, do oftentimes sell and put away the same at Butchers priuate houses, and sometimes vpon the euening before the fayre and Market day, or verie early in the morning of such fayre or Market dayes: by meanes whereof, such stolen cattell are viterly killed or driuen away, before the true owners can come to make their claime and challenge thereunto, especially to such as are sold at Butchers priuate houses vpon the euening before the fayre or Market day, for that they are either presently killed and sleped at such Butchers houses, or driuen away in the night time, so that the owner, if he come to make pursuit, can neither follow the Tract, nor vse any other meanes to recouer his goods againe, By meanes whereof the felons doe commonly escape, and are thereby much encouraged to commit the like stealthes againe, to the generall griuance of all his Maiesties louing subiects of this kingdome. Which wee the Lord Deputy and Councell of this kingdome taking into consideration, haue thought fit to make and establish some prouisionall order by Act of State for the present, vntill further order may be taken for the better reformation thereof, And therefore wee doe hereby order and decree, and likewise straightly charge and command, That no common Butcher shall buy any Sheepe, Oxen, Cowes, or other cattell, to kill at his priuate house, nor vpon the high way, nor in any other place but only in open Fayres & Markets, or at or in the houses or grounds of such persons as shall notoriously be knowne to be the true owners thereof, and where such Oxen, Cowes, Sheepe, or other cattle haue bene fedde and depastured by the space of one moneth next before the buying thereof, vpon paine of forfeiture of fine pounds sterl. for euery offence committed against the tenour of this Proclamation, whereof the one halfe to be to his Maiestie, & thother halfe to him or them that shall informe against any such offender or offenders, and to endure such further punishment (by imprisonment or otherwise) as to Us the L. Deputy & Councell shall be thought fit to be inflicted vpon them for their wilfull contempt in that behalfe. And further, that no maner of person or persons whatsoever, shall from and after the publishing hereof by proclamation, sell or buy any Cowes, Oxen, Sheepe, or other cattell whatsoever, that are or shall be brought vnto any fayre or Market to be sold, vntill they haue bene placed and settled in the open fayre or Market place vpon the vsuall fayre or Market day, and that betweene the houres of nine of the clocke in the morning, and thre of the clocke in the afternoone of the same day, vpon paine of imprisonment as well to the buyers as to the sellers, and such further punishment as to Us the Lord Deputy and Councell shall likewise thinke be thought fit to be inflicted vpon them for their wilfull contempt in that behalfe.

And wee doe hereby likewise straightly charge and command all Lords and owners of Fayres and Markets, That they doe take diligent care, that no buying or selling be vsed within their seuerall liberties, contrary to the tenour hereof, vpon paine to haue their seuerall Fayres and Markets respectiueley seized into the Kings hands, for holding them or suffering them to be holden otherwise then of right they ought to hold and keepe the same. And for that all driuing of cattell by night by Butchers or their Drouers, is likewise found to be very inconuenient, as well for the respects before mentioned, as also for that by colour of driuing such cattell in the night time from Fayres and Markets, the Drouers many times take other mens cattell and driue them along together with their owne, by meanes whereof the said cattell are oftentimes lost, and neuer heard of againe by the true owners: It is therefore ordered, that no Butcher or common Drouer, shall vpon any pretence whatsoever, from henceforth driue any Cowes, Calues, Sheepe, Oxen, or any other beasts or cattell whatsoever, in the night time, that is to say, from after the Sun-setting vntill the Sun-rising againe, vpon paine to be imprisoned by two Just. of peace before whom any such Drouer or Drouers shall be brought, there to remain vntill they shall find suerties for their forthcoming, & apparance vpon ten daies warning, to answer their contempt, & not to vse any such driuing againe in the night time. And we do hereby likewise authorize all Mayors, bayliffes, constables, & other his Maiesties officers & ministers whatsoever, as wel within towne as without, and all other his Maiesties louing subiects whatsoever, to arrest & lay all and euery such Drouer & Drouers, & other persons whatsoever so driuing any such cattell in the night time, as persons worthily to be suspected of stealing or getting the said cattell by some vnlawfull meanes, and them to carry before some of his Maiesties Justices of the Peace, to be further dealt withall either by imprisonment and binding as aforesaid, or otherwise, as vpon examination of the fact the nature of their offences shall be found to require. Given at his Maiesties Castle of Dublin the twentieth sixe day of february. 1623.

Adam Loftus Canc: Charles Wilmot. Hen: Valentia. Montgomerie. To: Caulfield. Hen: Docwra. Fr Blundell.

God saue the King.

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